

## **The Chairman's Award**

### **Overview**

The FIRST Robotics Competition is about much more than the mechanics of building a robot or winning a competitive event. It is about the impact FIRST has on those who participate in the program, and the impact of FIRST on the community at large. FIRST's mission is to change the way America's young people regard science and technology and to inspire an appreciation for the real-life rewards and career opportunities in these fields.

The Chairman's Award was created to keep the central focus of the FIRST Robotics Competition on our ultimate goal of transforming the culture of the United States, in ways that will inspire greater levels of respect and honor for science and technology, as well as encourage more of today's youth to become scientists, engineers and technologists.

The Chairman's Award represents the spirit of FIRST; it honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate, and which embodies the goals and purpose of FIRST. It remains FIRST's most prestigious team award. Because the Chairman's Award recognizes sustained excellence and impact, not just a one-year team effort, it is difficult for a first year (rookie) team to receive this honor. However, rookie teams are still encouraged to enter a submission; it's a great way to document your team's efforts and impact.

A Regional Chairman's Award will be presented at each regional competition. There are 23 regional competitions scheduled for the 2003 season. Therefore, there will be 23 Regional Chairman's Award winners. Only the 23 winners of the Regional Chairman's Award will be eligible for consideration in the selection of The Chairman's Award to be presented at The Championship.

## **Submission Information**

### **Submission Content**

The criteria for the 2003 Chairman's Award are essentially identical to those that have been traditional for the Chairman's Award in the past, with the exception that the judges will more consciously focus on a team's activities during the entire year, as distinguished from just the six-week design and build period. The FIRST Robotics Competition is not about machines; it is about the experience of people working together toward a shared goal. Documenting and preserving your team's FIRST experience becomes an important component of the over-all FIRST experience.

The Chairman's Award is presented to the team judged to have created the best partnership effort among team participants and to have best exemplified the true meaning of FIRST through measurable impact on the participants, school and community at large. There is no single "best way" for a team to win the Chairman's Award. Many factors come into play. The primary factors the judges will evaluate are:

1. How strong of a year-round team partnership effort is reflected?

(Partnership can be defined in many ways, including: the partnership among the team's students/corporate sponsor/engineers; school/university sponsor/engineers; students/adults; community/team)

2. How strongly does the submission document how FIRST impacted the learning experience of the students, school curriculum, engineers, and/or community?
3. How strongly does the submission provide examples of what the participants experienced in the FIRST program (i.e.: challenges, accomplishments, pitfalls, "lessons learned" etc.)?
4. How well has the team communicated their excitement and impact within their entire school, community, and beyond (state/nation) through their participation in FIRST?
5. Has the team documented an innovative way to spread FIRST's message?
6. Has the team explained/demonstrated why/how it should be a role model for other FIRST teams to emulate?
7. As a whole, does the content of the documentation exemplify the true meaning of FIRST?

Your Chairman's Award submission should include documentation for all of the above factors.

## **Submission Format**

The growing number of FIRST teams has necessitated that the submission format be standardized and limited to four single-sided 8 ½ x 11 inch pages of content. Content can be any combination of text and images. Text may be neatly hand written or typed/computer printed using a minimum of font size 10. The judges do need to be able to read it! In preparing this documentation, bear in mind that the students, the engineers, the teachers, community, school, sponsors, families and other supporters, as well as the machine itself, are all integral parts of your team experience. Your submission need not be professionally produced; it does need to clearly convey the factors outlined above.

## **Submission Requirements**

- 2003 submissions must be sent in hardcopy form only. Electronic files, CD-roms, computer disks, VHS/DVD, or audio-tapes will **NOT** be accepted.

All 2003 Chairman Award submissions **MUST** be accompanied by a completed 2003 Chairman's Award Executive Summary Form **at the time of submission**. This form is located at the end of the Chairman's Award section of the FIRST Competition Manual. Entries submitted without a completed Executive Summary form will not be reviewed or considered.

- Your Chairman's Award submission **must** have your FIRST Team Number clearly marked on ALL pages.
- Only one submission per team is permitted.
- Your team **must** be competing in the regional competition to which you submit your Chairman's Award entry. If your team is competing in more than one regional event, then choose ONE regional event and submit your entry to that designated address. Any team that submits a Chairman's Award entry to more than one regional competition

will automatically be deemed ineligible for consideration for this award for the 2003 season.

### **Submission Deadline**

Your chosen regional must **receive** your team's Chairman's Award submission by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 21, 2003. Submissions received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

### **Submission Addresses**

The address to which you mail your regional Chairman's Award submission depends on the regional in which you are competing. A list of the regional Chairman's Award submission addresses will be posted on the FIRST website by January 17, 2003.

**Do not** send your submission to FIRST. **Any submissions sent to FIRST will be deemed ineligible for consideration.**

### **Judging Process**

A panel of judges at each regional competition will review the Chairman's Award entries and will conduct on-site Chairman Award interviews with those teams who have entered a submission for that regional event. Interviews will be limited to five minutes with not more than three team members (students and/or adults) selected by the team members to best represent them. As part of the Chairman's Award judging process, FIRST judges will also review the Executive Summary page AND the yearbook page for each of the teams who submit for consideration of this award. Your team's submission will be a key factor in the selection process, along with the judges' own observations at the competitions. Announcements will be made on Friday morning at the Competition as to when the Chairman's Award interviews will take place; either later that same day or on Saturday morning.

Judges will select one winner of the Regional Chairman's Award for each regional competition. **All Chairman Award submissions for that regional will be returned to the teams on Saturday afternoon with the exception of the one Regional Chairman's Award winner.** The Regional Chairman's Award winning submission will be kept by FIRST and brought to The Championship event for consideration for the final Chairman's Award. At The Championship, a panel of judges will review only the winning 23 Regional Chairman's Award winners and will select one ultimate Chairman's Award winner. This championship Chairman's Award winning team has the additional honor of choosing one of its junior or senior student members to be the recipient of the Allaire Medal.

### **The Allaire Medal - Leadership Exemplified**

While The Chairman's Award bestowed at The Championship is presented to the FIRST team that is judged to have the best partnership effort, the Allaire Medal is awarded to an individual student on The Chairman's Award team.

Named in honor of Paul A. Allaire, a long-serving FIRST Chairman of the Board, The Allaire Medal is given to the student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership on his/her FIRST team, in his/her

school and community, and whose personal character best embodies the spirit of FIRST. The Allaire Medal recognizes leadership exemplified.

The team receiving The Chairman's Award at the Championship will select the Allaire Medal recipient as determined by adult and student team members. The recipient must be a high school junior or senior who has been accepted into a four-year degree program at a college or university. The Allaire Medalist receives the Allaire medallion and up to \$10,000 in total scholarship support for undergraduate tuition, room and board, fees, and books at his or her intended university or college.

**2003 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD SUBMISSION - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

(Complete and return this ONE page overview with your Chairman's Award submission.)

TEAM #:\_\_\_\_\_

TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CORPORATE/UNIVERSITY SPONSOR:\_\_\_\_\_

Regional Competition submitting Chairman's Award entry to:\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the strength of your partnership

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Describe the impact of the FIRST program on your team and community:

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Briefly describe the impact of the FIRST program on team participants:

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Team's communication methods and results:

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Team's innovative methods to spread the FIRST message:

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Examples of role model characteristics for other teams to emulate:

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Other matters of interest to the FIRST judges, if any:

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